AbleChild is a nationally recognized 501c3 non-profit organization with operations in Connecticut, New York, and now South Carolina and Florida. Our mission is informed consent. AbleChild opposes bill 457 and 738.

According to US Code Title 20 Chapter 31 general provisions concerning education Subchapter III. General requirements and conditions concerning operations and administration of education programs general authority of records, privacy, limitation on withholding federal funds section 1232h; protection of pupil rights - The federal government, under this title and its original intent, gives parents and citizens local control over their educational districts in order for parents to review local policies and programs.

The US Code has general provisions to ensure local parent/citizen control of the education system. This prevents the State from violating parents rights to review and approve programs being taught in their local school districts. The federal government has the right to withhold federal funding if these local parent/citizen local controls are bypassed or violated.

It is impossible to see how the State would force financial penalties on local districts to comply with a "regionalize school district" that these proposed bills would create, because it would violate the federal law under US Code Title 20 that protects local parents/citizens in order for them to maintain local control over their local school districts.

Bending language throughout US Code Title 20 Chapter 31 has been done over the years electronically, a soft coup, if you will, but not in a federal bill or state bill that has actually changed the fundamental language, i.e. codified the basic intent.

Now, it is possible for the people NOT to understand the importance the US Code affords them in the fundamental local protections and see the education committee pass these two horrible bills, but deep within the record of US Code Title 20 Chapter 31 general provision is the original intent to protect the parent and citizen against a one state solution, a one government solution.

It will take a fight from the ground up to keep this powerful protection handy for the local mom and dad or any citizen paying school taxes wanting to ensure they have a voice in the local education curriculum. AbleChild is happy to keep the light on this powerful protection. We hope the lawmakers reject this power grab and support the local mom and dad and local taxpayer to ensure local control is upheld.

Please let us know how Ablechild can help you with additional information on PPRA.

Sheila Matthews Cofounder <u>www.ablechild.org</u>